

Franklin County Receives HUD's 2004 Excellence Award

Columbus, OH – At this morning's General Session, the Franklin County Commissioners received recognition from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Ohio Office of Community Planning and Development for their work in pursuing partnerships and providing services to the homeless population of Franklin County.

This was a joint award, shared equally by the Board of Commissioners and the City of Columbus.

The HUD "Year 2004 Award of Excellence" acknowledges the role played by Commissioners Arlene Shoemaker, Dewey Stokes and Mary Jo Kilroy to bolster community development through the implementation of "programs, partnerships and services that serve the most disadvantaged of citizens, the homeless."

The award went on to acknowledge the role that the Franklin County Commissioners played in the development of the Commons at Grant, a 100-unit supportive and affordable housing building developed by National Church Residences (NCR) with seed money from both Franklin County and Columbus.

"We share the honor of this award with our community development partners at National Church Residences and the City of Columbus," said Commission Board President Arlene Shoemaker. "The Commons at Grant has been an outstanding example of cooperation and collaboration between the city and county in bringing permanent, supportive housing to formerly homeless individuals and low-income wage earners."

Commenting on this award, Commissioner Stokes said, "We're very proud of the success of this particular project and of the impact that these affordable housing units have had and will continue to have on the lives of so many individuals. And, I'm proud of our partnerships with National Church Residences and the City of Columbus, which made this project possible."

"We've looked to this project as a prototype for getting people back on their feet and enabling them to live productive lives," said Commissioner Mary Jo Kilroy. "What you have in the Commons at Grant is a facility that not only provides basic, clean and comfortable shelter, but offers career training, case management and supportive services to the county's most vulnerable population."

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